

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12 EDUCATION

Program 022

SPI - Pupil Transportation

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2009-11 Expenditure Authority		613,863		613,863
Total Maintenance Level		656,327		656,327
Difference		42,464		42,464
Percent Change from Current Biennium		6.9%		6.9%
Performance Changes				
Revise Bus Depreciation Formula		(95,622)		(95,622)
Implement Expected Cost Model Formula		90,000		90,000
Eliminate Transportation Coordinator		(1,784)		(1,784)
Suspend Plan 1 Uniform COLA #		(4,493)		(4,493)
Subtotal		(11,899)		(11,899)
Total Proposed Budget		644,428		644,428
Difference		30,565		30,565
Percent Change from Current Biennium		5.0%		5.0%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Student Transportation		644,428		644,428
Total Proposed Budget		644,428		644,428

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Revise Bus Depreciation Formula

The state provides funding to school districts to replace school buses under a depreciation schedule. State allocations are deposited into the district's Transportation Vehicle Fund to be used only for the purchase of new buses or for major repairs. Annual payments are made to districts from the year a bus is purchased until the bus reaches the end of its scheduled lifecycle. Beginning in the 2011-12 school year, the bus depreciation schedule is replaced with a single state allocation for bus replacement, paid at the end of the lifecycle of the bus. The change is consistent with amendments in the 2010 supplemental budget to the sales tax portion of the state depreciation schedule.

Implement Expected Cost Model Formula

Chapter 236, Laws of 2010 implements a new state formula to allocate funding to districts for pupil transportation to and from school. Pupil transportation allocations are converted to the new formula, and base funding levels are enhanced.

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Eliminate Transportation Coordinator

OSPI provides regions with transportation coordinators to provide technical assistance to districts for transportation-related reporting, training, procurement, and operations. Funding for regional transportation coordinators is eliminated in the 2011-13 budget.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Student Transportation

Each school district electing to provide student transportation to and from school is entitled to state pupil transportation funding. The formula uses basic and special student loads, school district land area, average distance to school, roadway miles, and the number of locations served to allocate funding to districts. The state also pays for the replacement of district school buses through a depreciation system. Schools transport over 480,000 students 90 million miles annually.